

February 12, 2013

State of Connecticut  
Transportation Committee  
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Bill 6059

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since completion of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Commuter Rail Implementation Study in 2005, the Town of Enfield has been engaged in the development of the Thompsonville Transit Center at the corner of Main and North River Streets between the Connecticut River and the Amtrak rail line.

The Transit Center is an important step in the revitalization process of the historic Thompsonville village center. Far more than just a train station, the Town sees the economic development opportunities and possibilities for Transit Oriented Development.

We see the potential for the creation of work-force housing and addressing long standing environmental and social justice issues within this diverse community. We understand the need to look towards the future while preserving our past, and will do that through the preservation of the Westfield Casket Hardware building.

The Town of Enfield has developed strong State and regional partners during the development process and we stand ready to work in cooperation with the Transportation Committee as well.

For your information, we have attached a progress report which highlights the work and resources which are dedicated to the Thompsonville Transit Center Project. If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Peter Bryanton, Director of Community Development at 860-253-6387.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and your continued support of the entire NHHS rail line initiative.

Sincerely,

Peter Bryanton  
Director of Community Development

# THOMPSONVILLE TRANSIT CENTER

## PROGRESS REPORT

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a Multimodal Transit Center which will service the Greater Enfield area.
- Operate a mixed-use transit facility which will promote public transit use and help to spur private investment within the village.
- Introduction of Transit Oriented Development concepts in Enfield targeted towards Thompsonville revitalization.
- Remediation and reutilization of historic structures and contaminated sites which are in close proximity to the Connecticut River.
- Pave the way for “Riverfront Recapture” and recreational opportunities for area residents.
- Promote Environmental and Social Justice within a low-moderate income neighborhood.

### PROJECT MILESTONES:

- March 2005 CT DOT releases the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Commuter Rail Implementation Plan which includes an Enfield rail station in the “Maximum Build Scenario”.
- May 2006 Enfield is awarded a \$2.5 million grant from the FTA for planning and development of bus service related facilities.
- April 2009 Enfield completes Feasibility Study for the Thompsonville Transit Center (TTC) which identifies the North River Street site as being the most advantageous for Transit Oriented Development (TOD).
- July 2009 Town is awarded a second FTA grant, \$975,000 for TTC land acquisition.
- 2010 Enfield completes market rate appraisals and develops a Real Estate Acquisition Management Plan for the proposed site.  
November 2010 Enfield commissions conceptual designs for the project.
- January 2011 Town conducts a series of meetings to solicit comments and engage the public in conceptual planning for the project.
- September 2011 conceptual designs are presented and approved by the Enfield Town Council.
- January 2012 Enfield embarks on property acquisition efforts.
- May 2012 Enfield Community Development Corporation is awarded a \$350,000 Regional Brownfield Grant to acquire and remediate contamination at 33 North River Street. (Circa 1893 mill building)
- July 2012, Northeast Utilities (NU) signs access agreement for Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) work.
- October 2012 Phase I ESA’s are completed.
- November 2012 Enfield retains the services of an Environmental Attorney to assist with acquisition issues.
- January 2013 the Town in conjunction with CT Transit undertakes the operation of the new Magic Carpet local bus service, an FTA requirement for TTC funding.

**PROJECT NEXT STEPS:**

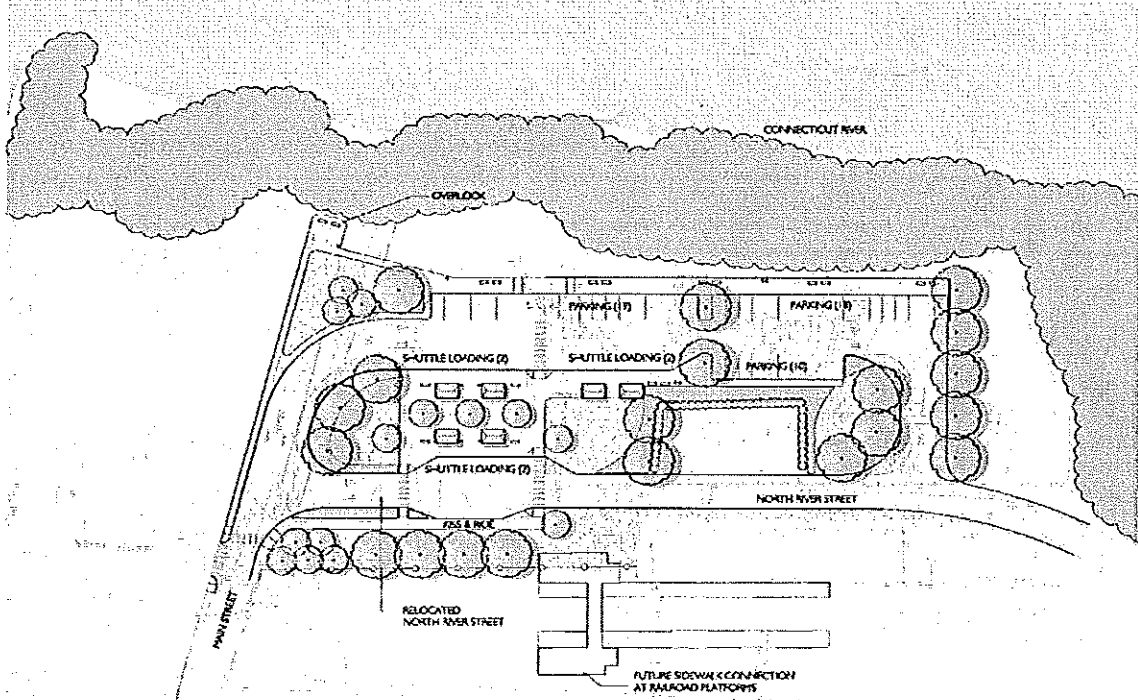
- Perform Phase II ESA's at subject properties and target Brownfield funding for remediation / redevelopment. (Spring 2013)
- Acquire subject parcels. (Summer 2013)
- Develop final designs and construction plans. (Summer 2013)
- Obtain State and local development permits and approvals. (Fall 2013)
- Procure the project for public bids (Winter 2014)
- Break ground on TTC Phase I construction. (Spring 2014)
- Coordinate with CT DOT on rail station designs and construction plans.

**RIVER ACCESS PROJECT**

- May 2005 Enfield is awarded a \$3.4 million FHWA grant to provide safe access over high-speed rail line to the CT River.
- October 2009 Town concludes its preliminary design report for the River Access Project at the Old Enfield Dam site south of Route 190 Bridge.
- Initial plans are rejected by area residents and the Enfield Town Council
- September 2011 Town proposes relocating the project to the Barns Boat Launch area improving pedestrian access to the Transit Center site.
- April 2012 Town receives approval to relocate the project utilizing the Asnuntuck Street underpass for pedestrian access.
- December 2012 formal plans and proposal submitted to CT DOT & FHWA.

# CONCEPTUAL PLANS

## Thompsonville Transit Center



## Riverfront Master Plan

